**Backgrounder**

**Hospice Palliative Care Week 2021**

**May 2nd – 8th**

May 2nd – 8th marks National Hospice Palliative Care week. This national campaign is a time to celebrate and share achievements of hospice palliative care throughout the nation, but it also provides a platform to look at shortcomings and create bridges for these gaps.

This year, the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) is taking a moment to memorialize those who have passed, as well as highlight those who have made this hard year a little brighter. Whether it is our loved ones or those working and volunteering in the HPC field, we recognize the efforts made this year and aim to shine a light on those who matter most.

**Theme**

* **The Light of My Life**
	+ Whether they are still with us or have passed on, we encourage you to take the time to shine a light on those who have been with you through the hardest and happiest times of your life.
	+ At CHPCA, we are committed to bringing hospice palliative care issues to light. With the lack of access, funding, advocacy, and awareness in hospice palliative care, we are working hard to close the gaps with our 2019–2022 Strategic Plan and we hope you choose to join us.

**Purpose**

During Hospice Palliative Care Week, we seek to encourage and engage in a public discussion to bring hospice palliative care issues to light. Through the promotion of resources, tools, and online engagement the CHPCA will invite Canadians to begin shining a light on who and what matters most to them.

**What can you do?**

1. **Share your stories on social media!** To brighten up these dark days, we invite you to virtually join us on May 7th between 7–8 PM to celebrate the light of your life. Post a photo or video of your light to social media with the hashtags #TheLightOfMyLife and #HPCWEEK and tag CHPCA on Facebook (CanadianHospicePalliativeCare) and Twitter (@CanadianHPCAssn) to join the conversation!
2. **Send letters to your MPs for national strategies!** Would you like to make a change when it comes to issues surrounding HPC? Use our templated letter to send to your MP demanding funding for a national strategy on HPC and one for more MPPs demanding that more healthcare spending be directed to supporting HPC programs.
3. **Submit articles and stories online to eHospice** (https://ehospice.com/)
4. **Download our resources!** Visit chpca.net/week to download printable posters, FAQ sheet and other materials for Hospice Palliative Care Week 2020

**Online Resources:**

* Download and share CHPCA’s printable poster and fact sheet
* Download CHPCA’s Press Release and Backgrounder to familiarize yourself with the

goals of Hospice Palliative Care Week 2021

*The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association—the national voice for hospice palliative care in Canada—is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in care for persons approaching death so that the burdens of suffering, loneliness and grief are lessened. The CHPCA operates in close partnership with other national organizations and continues to work to ensure that “that all Canadians have access to quality hospice palliative care.”*

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